



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations



The Skills for the Carbon Challenge initiative

About the Skills for the Carbon Challenge initiative

The Skills for the Carbon Challenge initiative provides national leadership in building the capacity of the tertiary education sector to supply the skills needed for workers and businesses to prosper in a low-carbon economy. It is managed by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). It supports:

- research to develop a better understanding of the underlying skills issues associated with the transition to a low-carbon economy
- the Skills for Sustainability—Educational Institution Award to encourage excellence in the delivery of education and training for sustainability.

The research

A significant program of research has been undertaken since the initiative commenced in 2009.

Skills for a Sustainable Future employer survey—a survey of 1932 businesses in emissions intensive industry sectors to identify current and future requirements for green skills (February 2010)

Skills for a Low Carbon Economy literature review—a review of key national and international literature on the jobs and skills implications of the transition to a sustainable, low carbon economy (February 2010)


NCVER demand and supply of skills for sustainability in the Australian tertiary sector—research that tracks student demand for skills for sustainability training, and the ability of the tertiary education and training system to meet this demand from 2003 to 2008 (January 2010)

Skills for Green Jobs study—part-funding for the Workplace Research Centre at The University of Sydney to develop the 'Skills for Green Jobs' study as part of a twenty-one country study coordinated by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) (June 2010)

Study of the Impact on Future Skills Needs of Moving to a Low-emission Economy—research on the skills and training implications of modelling work developed by the Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS) on the occupational level impacts of the introduction of a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme out to 2025 (December 2010)

Upskilling Existing Workers in Skills for Sustainability Formative Evaluation—The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) is working in partnership with three Industry Skills Councils (ISCs), including Construction and Property Services ISC (CPSISC), ElectroComms and Energy Utilities ISC (EE-Oz) and Manufacturing Skills Australia (MSA), to upskill 350-400 existing workers in skills for sustainability. A consultant has been engaged to undertake a formative evaluation of the project (due for completion in 2011).

The **Murdi Paaki Green Skills Research Project**—this project maps the opportunities arising from climate change and the emerging green economy for the Indigenous population in the Murdi Paaki region of NSW, and identifies how the green skills needed to take advantage of these opportunities can be provided to the workforce (May 2011).



Three pilot projects model innovative approaches to the delivery of sustainability education in the Australian higher education sector.

- The Australian Learning and Teaching Council's Learning and Teaching Sustainability website was launched in December 2010. It includes a searchable database of sustainability-related higher education programs and courses for students, as well as comprehensive resources and practical tools to assist educators to teach sustainability. Visit it at www.sustainability.edu.au
- The Australian Research Institute for the Environment and Sustainability (ARIES) developed two teaching modules:
 - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy teaching module at www.aries.mq.edu.au/projects/deewr_energy_efficiency/
 - Indigenous Concepts of Country and Sustainability module at www.aries.mq.edu.au/projects/deewr_indigenous_concepts/

Skills for Sustainability—Educational Institution Award

The Skills for Sustainability—Educational Institution Award was launched in July 2009 to recognise educational providers that deliver outstanding nationally-recognised training programs, products and work practices. The 2011 recipient will be announced in November 2011 in Brisbane.

2010—Swinburne University of Technology (TAFE Division)

Presented to the Swinburne University of Technology (TAFE Division) in Sydney on Friday, 19 November 2010. Since 2001 Swinburne University of Technology's National Centre for Sustainability has developed innovative training programs focusing on sustainability that range from foundation level through to a Diploma and Graduate Certificate of Sustainability.

Swinburne has a university-wide Sustainability Strategy that includes a commitment to embed sustainability in the learning objectives of 100 per cent of its programs by 2015.

2009—Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE

The Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE, NSW, became the inaugural Skills for Sustainability Award winner in November 2009 for its work developing effective partnerships with industry organisations and community groups to build sustainable work skills that will support Australia's transition to a low-carbon economy.

Further information

For more information visit the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Climate Change and Skills for Sustainability web pages at: www.deewr.gov.au/skillsforsustainability

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